



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO.   | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/849,731  | 05/20/2004  | Scott A. Mollema     | AM1133.2.C1         | 7341             |
| 24123   | 7590        | 02/07/2006           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| ALTICOR INC.<br>7575 FULTON STREET EAST MAILCODE 78-2G<br>ADA, MI 49355 |             |                      | VO, TUYET THI       |                  |
|   |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
|   |             |                      | 2821                |                  |

DATE MAILED: 02/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/849,731

Applicant(s)

MOLLEMA ET AL

Examiner

Tuyet Vo

Art Unit

2821

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 November 2005.  
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### Remarks

1. Applicant's arguments filed November 21, 2005, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-4 and 9-11 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon reconsideration, the allowed subject matter indicated in the previous action has also been withdrawn due to a new ground(s) of rejection made in view of Seok et al. provided as follow.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Seok et al. (US Pat. 5,768,898), hereinafter Seok.

Regarding claims 1-4 and 9-11, Seok discloses a starter assembly (Fig. 3) for a gas discharge fluorescent lamp (39), comprising:

at least one magnetic switch (22a, marked by examiner) connected in series between two filaments (37, 38) of the fluorescent lamp (39); and

a microcomputer (19) electrically connected to an electromagnet (22b, marked by examiner) for closing the magnetic switch (22a) which is normally in opened position, wherein the microcomputer actuates the magnetic switch (22a) for a predetermined length of time (col. 4, lines 20-42).

Art Unit: 2821

Regarding claims 5-8 and 12-15, Seok further discloses the microcomputer is programmable to turn on the electromagnetic switch in a first preheat time for the fluorescent lamp when first detect a door switch is on (col. 4, lines 20-33) and the microcomputer turns off the switch after the preheat time lapse in a second preheat time that is the time during the lamp is still on via operation of a power supply (31), ballast (33) and other relay switch (21) until the door switch is off (col. 4, lines 65-67).

#### ***Citation of pertinent prior art***

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicants' disclosure.

Menke (US Pat. 6,507,154) discloses circuit for operating warning lights.

Citino et al. (US Pat. 4,661,745) discloses rapid start fluorescent lamp power reducer.

#### ***Correspondence***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuyet Vo whose telephone number is 571 272 1830. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

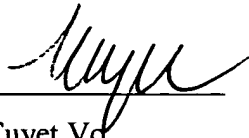
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on 571 272 1834. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 571 273 8300 for regular communications and for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571 272 2800.

Information regarding the status of an application or status information for publicizing/unpublicizing applications may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at toll free 866-217-9197.

Application/Control Number: 10/849,731  
Art Unit: 2821

Page 4



---

Tuyet Vo

Primary Examiner

February 04, 2006

FIG. 3

